The Man in the Ranks

By JOHN GALLISHAW and
Sergeant WILLIAM LYNCH

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By John Gallishaw

TRENCHING AT GALLIPOLI.

THE MAN IN THE RANKS

THE MAN IN THE RANKS

BY

JOHN GALLISHAW

Late First Newfoundland Regiment
(Gallipoli, 1915)

AND

WILLIAM LYNCH, U.S. ARMY

Sergeant Instructor R.O.T.C., Plattsburg, N.Y.

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THE MAN IN THE RANKS

THE MAN IN THE RANKS

CHAPTER I

GETTING STARTED RIGHT

Get started right

To begin with, you must try to accustom yourself at once to an entirely new outlook on life. No more are you the ordinary average, easy-going, irresponsible young man. From now on you are a soldier of Uncle Sam, privileged to represent the United States of America in the greatest war that has ever been fought for struggling humanity, against the most formidable enemy that has ever menaced civilization. From now on you must think as a soldier. Once you have taken the oath of allegiance to the United States you hold yourself at her disposal, to follow wherever she beckons, and to go wherever she bids. And in going, remember

The weight of your pack

that you go as a soldier, and that you must be ready to leave at the shortest notice. That means, of course, that you must carry with you only such equipment as is absolutely necessary, since, when a soldier on active service leaves one camp, he seldom returns there. So in the selection of the things to take to camp with you, you must be guided by that consideration. *When you add anything to your equipment, you add it to the weight of your pack.* But sometimes the pleasure or comfort you get from some article far outbalances the extra weight.

Things you must have

There are certain essentials, of course, that you can't possibly get along without, such as soap for washing and shaving, toothbrush, tooth-powder, razor, comb, and pocket mirror. But there are other little extras that go with these which occur at once to the experienced campaigner, but not to the novice until he has struggled along without them

Extras that add to comfort

for a while. For instance, try throwing your comb and brushes and your tooth-paste and soap into a cardboard box or a bag. See what condition they will be in at the end of the week. You are not going into this thing for a week or so; you are in for "the duration of the war." Whether that time is going to feel long or short to you depends on how comfortable you can make yourself.

The waterproof bag

You will find it infinitely convenient to take with you a waterproof bag to hold your toilet articles. Among these toilet articles you should have a small-sized rubber sponge, which will be awfully handy. Get an aluminum holder for your soap, as aluminum is light and stronger than celluloid. To protect your toothbrush you should have a holder: it will keep the bristles clean and save them from being crushed. If you have some special preference in tooth-paste, you had better take that with you, but you will

The waterproof bag

find eventually that the best thing is tooth-powder in a tin can. The trouble with the tubes of tooth-paste is that some one is sure to come into your tent and sit down on your kit bag, and smear the tooth-paste over everything near it.

All these things should go into your little waterproof bag, together with your razor, your shaving-soap (which must, of course, have a stiff metal covering), your hairbrush, and your comb. These constitute the barest essentials for keeping clean. But simply keeping clean does not presuppose a neat, smart appearance. You must have a shoe-polishing outfit; black polish for black shoes, and tan for russet shoes. One piece of rag to daub the polish on with, and another to give the final shine to the shoes, will be better than brushes and easier to carry. Then buttons are always being lost from trousers, and you won't be able to have them sewed

Keeping smart

on at home as you have been accustomed to. So you won't find many things so convenient and so nearly indispensable as some "bachelor buttons." The best kind are the ones that have a little spring on the center of the button, as they are interchangeable and can be worn on different pairs of trousers. Also you will be astonished to find how often shoestrings break or become so knotted that you have to cut them. So a few extra pairs of shoestrings won't be amiss. That just about covers the list of things you really *must* have, but a few little extras will add greatly to your comfort.

Bachelor buttons

Extra shoestrings

You will, of course, have a number of letters to write, and with this in mind you should take along a pad of thin, onion-skin paper, because it is light and therefore allows you to carry a lot, to say nothing of the saving in postage. A fountain pen you will find almost indispensable, but the great

Writing materials

Ink pellets

trouble with that is the necessity of carrying ink. You can avoid this by taking along ink pellets which dissolve in water, or if that is too much trouble, you can write your letters with an indelible pencil. Later, on actual active service, you will have to do it.

Matches and match-safe

Somehow or other almost every one forgets to bring matches, so if you outfit yourself with a nice little metal match safe, filled with matches, you not only have matches, but you have begun the habit of keeping them in a waterproof holder. When you have been out on a listening patrol in No Man's Land for three or four hours some cold, wet night and want a few good-night puffs when you crawl under your blanket, you'll thank your lucky stars that you formed that habit. Another thing you will find of great assistance is a

Electric torch

little pocket-size electric torch. Some night you'll come in late when your tent-mates are asleep and everything is dark. Then your

torch will show you your way to your blankets without disturbing the entire tent. And if you survive your first experience of waking a tentful of sleeping men, you'll be glad you brought that torch. You might, if you have room, take along some safety pins, although you will probably find enough of these in the little "housewife" with which the Government provides you. But the articles suggested are the things you should have with you when you start for camp.

Electric torch

In starting for camp you must bear in mind that you are very soon to be in uniform. So it behooves you not to take along your best suit of civilian clothes. You will find yourself somewhat limited for room at first, and all your extra clothing will have to be folded in a compact bundle. Therefore the best thing to wear is a suit of old clothes, or, better still, if you are fortunate enough to possess one, some kind of uniform. *By far the most impor-*

Wear your old clothes to camp

Wear your old clothes to camp

tant thing is the kind of shoes you wear. Go to camp in old, comfortable ones, and when your new military shoes are issued to you by the Quartermaster's Department, be sure that they are a size larger than the ones you wore as a civilian. Don't mind if they make your feet look a little bigger. After you have been a little while drilling and sleeping in the open air, your muscles will have hardened and your appetite will have increased so that the rest of you will grow to match your feet. If you value your comfort and well-being, get started right the first few days in camp.

First days in camp

Those first few days in camp are going to mean a great deal to you. If you can get over the first week or two without blistered feet or a ragged temper you will be all right. But everything depends on how pleasant you make the life at first. And of course that depends largely on your disposition. You will

find many little inconveniences at the beginning. For instance, at home when you want to shave in the morning you go into the bathroom, turn on the hot water, rub on a little soap, strop your razor or put a new blade in your "safety," scrape it over your face a few times, and presto, you are shaved. *First days in camp*

In camp you will find it different. One of your troubles will be that you can't get the hot water that you have been accustomed to look upon as a matter of course at home; but if you are a little farsighted in getting your equipment before starting, you need not suffer much from this. Take to camp with you a little tin of alcohol that mounts on a folding, three-legged tripod. These alcohol outfits can be obtained at any good hardware store. Tripod and tin together are compact enough to be carried in the ordinary pocket. They cost very little, and you can scarcely afford to be without them.

First days in camp

After you have tried shaving in cold water for a little time you will learn the value of such an outfit and how much it contributes to your physical comfort.

Physical comfort, however, although it counts a very great deal, is not everything. The basis of this whole business of being a soldier is, of course, your mental attitude. You will need above everything else to be patient. It is the greatest virtue you will acquire from the army. Don't kick if things don't seem to go well at first. Remember that getting a million men together is a big undertaking — a tremendous undertaking. Remember that it has to be done under many disadvantages. If some things don't go wrong at first it will be providential. All the other nations have found that getting large bodies of soldiers trained was far from easy. In many ways you will be much better situated than the soldiers of other nations.

First days in camp

They did not even have equipment enough, or clothing, or rifles, or ammunition, or even tents. Compared with the recruits in England at the beginning of the war you will be royally housed and fed and equipped. Every American soldier going into camp will be completely equipped — uniform, pack, rifle, bayonet, and camping outfit!

CHAPTER II

THE FIRST DAYS IN CAMP

The one real reason you are a soldier

You are a soldier for only one real reason. The United States must help to win the war against Germany. It is up to you as a good American to do your level best to help the country win. You have a chance to help by taking an interest in your training and doing well the job you have to do. Don't think that simply because you have become a soldier your duty is done. As a matter of fact, it has just begun. Don't get into your head the idea that wearing the uniform absolves you from further effort. You can be a slacker in spite of the uniform — even a greater slacker than the civilian.

A great machine depends on you

From the minute you put on khaki you are a part of a huge organization. You are a single cog in a great machine made up of

millions of cogs, working for one end. It will be judged efficient on only one basis — ability to conquer the enemy. That machine is dependent on its cogs, and if one is weak the burden falls on the rest. Remember that everything you learn of military value helps your squad. Remember also that if you are backward in learning, you are holding back your squad. If your squad is held back, so is the platoon of which it is a part. The platoon in turn holds back its company, and so on up through all the steps. You cannot take refuge in the excuse that you are just one man, and that out of a million men one man matters not at all. On the contrary, it is distinctly up to you. You must take a sincere and honest interest in your work and make every effort to do well the task assigned you. Otherwise you are not only keeping back a vast organization, but you are distinctly helping the enemy. If you, as a soldier, loaf

A great machine depends on you

A great machine depends on you

on your job in time of war, you are a traitor. You are just as much an enemy of the United States as any German.

Your one job

From now on you have one job to do and one standard to attain: you must reach the highest point of efficiency. Keep in mind always that the military system of this country is the result of a great deal of study. Men have given their whole lives to perfecting that system. If there are some things in it that do not seem to you quite right — have patience. Wait and see. But while you are waiting, learn all you can. Make yourself familiar with the drill regulations. Every good soldier should know all the formations. Some time you will have to learn them all. If you study them in advance, you will understand more clearly the reason for them when the time comes. If you know why you are doing a thing, it is infinitely easier to do it than if you do it blindly.

Learn thoroughly all the formations

Don't get the notion that practice is not necessary

After you have spent a few weeks doing squad drill, you will think that so much practice is unnecessary. You will feel that you can never know it any better. Possibly you will be quite outspoken in your comments. In your case, very likely this is true — YOU may never know it any better. But remember that you are not the only man in your squad. Remember that your squad is only as strong as its weakest man. It has to move as a complete unit, it cannot do so until every man knows the formations and does them automatically. That is one of the hardest lessons to learn, but once learned it will save you much worry.

The value of the close-order drill

Remember that everything depends on the mastery of that close-order drill. It is the basis of all the other movements. You cannot execute the extended formations without it. You must creep before you walk. Every movement in the whole drill manual is the

The value of the close-order drill

result of years of study. Everything is done in the quickest way — and the easiest. If you doubt this, try to do any of the movements some easier way. It will be interesting — and very enlightening.

Team work the whole story

Before you have been very long in camp, you will learn that everything depends on team work. As far as you are concerned, your immediate partners in the team are the other men in your squad. You will have to live with them, drill with them, march with them, eat with them, and sleep with them. With that in mind, don't form any snap judgments. The man who seems to be a grouch may be naturally shy. Perhaps he is a quiet man, who ordinarily has little to say. Again, he may be simply lying low and sizing you up. For a little while, at any rate, just suspend judgment. Give yourself a little time before condemning any of them. Be as considerate of them as you hope they will be

of you. In the meantime, while things are slowly shaping themselves, don't be afraid that you are doing more than your share.

Team work the whole story

Learn to do your share of the work. That is one of the hardest lessons for the new recruit. The beginning of trouble in a tent comes when the rest of the men feel that one man is not doing his part. The best way to avoid this is for the man in charge of the tent to make a list of the men. From this list detail one man each day to do the ordinary work of the tent. Let him pick up paper, keep the tent clean, and do the sort of fatigue work which is really the business of no one in particular, but which must be done.

Do your full share and do it cheerfully

Try to create a feeling of pride in your tent. Make it the neatest one on the company street. Don't be content to let things go along in a slipshod way. Be a little bit better than the tents next you. Get some flat stones and put them in front to make a

Do your full share and do it cheerfully

little entrance. Use these stones as a kind of doormat and boot-scraper. This will keep you from carrying a lot of mud into your tent, and save a lot of cleaning.

Get all the sleep you can

At night, don't stay awake talking after "lights out." You need all the sleep you can get. Not only do you suffer yourself, but you keep your tent-mates awake. If you take all this in the proper spirit, you will do these things cheerfully and take a pride in them. You will be proud of the showing of your tent. Unless you do this, you will find the life of a soldier galling, and grow to hate it cordially.

Obedience prompt and cheerful and intelligent

Never forget that your first duty is obedience. Above all, remember that obedience is useless unless it is prompt. The keynote of the army is *prompt and cheerful obedience.* But no matter how prompt you are in obeying an order, or how cheerfully or willingly you set about it, unless you know how to do

Obedience prompt and cheerful and intelligent

it right, it is useless. Simply doing what you are told to do cheerfully and at once is not enough. You should learn to do things without waiting to be ordered. For instance, learn as soon as you can the meaning of all the different bugle-calls. Each one has a different message and a distinct use.

Learn the language

One of the quickest ways to become a good soldier is to learn the language of the drill regulations. This is especially worth doing if you have any hope of becoming a non-com. Experts have cut out of the drill-regulation language every unnecessary word. The commands are the quickest way of letting a soldier know exactly what you want him to do. In this war casualties are very large and promotion is quick. Even if you are not a regularly appointed non-com, an enemy shell may promote you, leaving you in charge of a number of men. If you happen to be charging, and have reached the enemy's barbed

Learn the language

wire, upon your coolness and clear-headedness depend the lives of your comrades. It is at such a time that the shouting of some order in the language of the drill regulations convinces your men that you are calm and cool. There is nothing else so calculated to inspire troops with a feeling of complete confidence in their leader. They feel that you are master of the situation. On the other hand, if they do not receive the order in the words that they have grown accustomed to, they will instinctively hesitate. Never before was there so much truth in the old saw that "he who hesitates is lost." Every minute they wait a machine-gun can pump nearly six hundred bullets into them.

Your relations with your superior officers

As an independent and democratic American you will find it hard to realize that there are very clearly marked lines between you and your superior officers. The non-commissioned officer will be one of your big

troubles unless you act sensibly. Especially will this be so in the new national army, which will be short of trained non-coms. This means that some of them will have to be drawn from the new men. You will find it galling at first to take orders from a man who apparently is not any better able to give them than you are. But it must be done. The sooner you realize it, the easier it will be for you. Here again you will need the great new trait that you are bound to acquire: the invaluable virtue of patience.

Your relations with your superior officers

If your non-com. is not fitted for his job, just wait a little while. He is sure to be found out. Meanwhile don't waste time grumbling. Go on and learn all you can yourself, so that you may be fit for promotion when it comes your way. If you feel that your non-com. is not treating you fairly, just grin and bear it. Don't forget for a minute that you are in one of the biggest undertakings of the

Don't waste any time grumbling

Don't waste any time grumbling

times. Things are sure to get adjusted before very long.

Your problem with the commissioned officer is much simpler. All you have to do is to obey his orders. You may feel absolutely certain that any officer who is granted a commission in the new army is thoroughly qualified to give such orders. Not even Germany has set such a high standard for commissioned officers. Your job is to do your work as well as the officer does his. Other than that you have simply to treat him with courtesy. That is, when you speak to him you must call him "Sir." That is no more than you would do, in civilian life, for the man you work for. Some men object to saluting an officer whom they dislike, or against whom they have some special grudge. This should n't count at all. You are not saluting the man. You are paying a compliment to the uniform he wears.

There are a few essentials about saluting

Saluting when you should and when you need n't

that may help you. Not only should you salute all officers of the regular army and of the militia, but you should salute all officers of the marine corps and the navy. Salute also all officers of the armies and navies of our allies. When the national colors are uncased, they also are entitled to a salute. When you have your hat off, you should not salute, but if you have to talk to an officer, come to attention before addressing him. Stay at attention until you have finished your business with him or until he directs you otherwise. If you pass an officer when you are at the double, don't salute. Don't salute in a theater, street-car, or restaurant. In places like that it is n't necessary. It is inconvenient for an officer to return the salute, and it makes you both conspicuous. When you are doing fatigue work, you don't have to salute. If an officer comes into the room when you are at meals, don't salute. Simply stop

Saluting when you should and when you need n't

eating and talking until he tells you to go ahead.

Non-coms, are not entitled to a salute. You must salute everybody from a second lieutenant up. You can tell the different grades by the shoulder-strap or shoulder-loop of officers.

A general wears a coat of arms and two stars.

A lieutenant-general has two small stars and one large one.

A major-general has two silver stars.

A brigadier-general has one silver star.

A colonel's insignia is a silver spread eagle.

A lieutenant-colonel wears one silver leaf.

A major wears a gold leaf.

A captain wears two silver bars.

A first lieutenant wears one silver bar.

A second lieutenant can be distinguished by his hat-band, or, if he wears a cap, by the braid on it.

The grade of non-commissioned officers is shown by the chevrons on their sleeves.

Don't bother your officer with trivial matters

In the old days, when an officer had more time than he has at present, he could keep in touch in a friendly way with his men. Now that conditions at the front are changing almost daily, the officer's job gets harder all the time. Therefore bother him as little as possible and only with very important matters. During the first few days in camp there will be so much organizing to do that the officer will be swamped with work. So if you have anything to bring to his attention, talk it over first with your non-com. Perhaps he can help you out. Do not make it any harder for your officer than you can help. Show him that you wish to coöperate with him. One way to do this is to keep yourself always as neat as possible. Don't annoy him by coming on parade all mussed up. If by any chance your uniform gets torn, mend it right

Don't bother your officer with trivial matters

away. Don't leave your quarters with your blouse unbuttoned or your collar unhooked, and don't ever appear in breeches without your leggings. When you wear your leggings, be sure that they are clean. If they are leather, polish them, and keep your canvas ones scrubbed. You will find your officers down on men who are slovenly. Therefore, if there is a man in your tent who is inclined to be careless of his appearance, make him spruce up. Of course you must do this in as tactful a way as possible. Try not to hurt his feelings while you are doing it. This is something you have to be very careful about. If you bully a man, you are liable to be kept in the guardhouse until you apologize to him in the presence of his commanding officer. Quarreling of any kind is severely discouraged among soldiers.

Don't fight till you get to France

If you feel you must fight, wait until you get to France. You will find a good many

Don't fight till you get to France

Germans there who are willing to accommodate you. If you cannot wait until then, be sure to select an opponent from among the enlisted men. *Any* non-com. from *any* branch of the service is over *any* enlisted man. It is also a good plan to pick out a man you feel absolutely certain you can lick. Take him to a quiet place where you are sure no officer will interrupt you, because any officer can stop a disturbance among enlisted men. He can order them into clink. If you strike a superior officer, it is a very serious offense. If the officer cares to push the charge, such an offense is punishable by death.

A pass — or stay close to camp

Another thing you will find rather hard is to stay in camp unless you have a pass. You may go about the surroundings of the camp, but under the articles of war if you are found a mile away from it without a pass you are liable to court-martial. Therefore be careful to get a pass before you leave, unless you

A pass — or stay close to camp

wish to be escorted back by the military police. If by any chance one of these gentry who is arresting another man calls on you for assistance, *give it.* Don't let a mistaken sense of loyalty to a comrade prevent you. Such refusal would only get you into trouble, and be of no help to him. Besides, it is a severe breach of discipline.

The absolute necessity for strict discipline

The necessity for discipline is something the independent American from civil life finds hard to grasp. It was a hard lesson for the British colonials. For months after they had become masters of their drill and formations, they were held back from going to the front because they were not disciplined. Of one regiment the inspecting general said: "This is the finest body of men I have ever seen, but the most undisciplined." That regiment, solely to acquire discipline, had to remain in training another three months, while their friends went to the front. It was a

The absolute necessity for strict discipline

great blow. But even in spite of that they did not learn the true meaning of discipline. In order to get to the front sooner, they carried out all orders promptly. As a result of this, at their final inspection, Lord Kitchener pronounced them "Just the men I want for the Dardanelles." When they did reach the front, instead of profiting by this lesson, they resumed their lawless behavior, They boasted that they would obey only such orders as they liked. Consequently, in their first attack on the enemy lines, when they were told to take three lines of trenches, instead of stopping at the third trench, they continued to the fourth and fifth. Meanwhile their own artillery received the signal that the third line had been taken. So it elevated its fire to demoralize the fleeing enemy in the rear trenches. In this hail of fire the colonial troops were caught and almost the whole regiment was wiped out. From that day to

this the survivors carry out strictly the orders they receive.

Initiative and ingenuity

Of course, strict obedience to orders means more than doing simply just what you are told. You should endeavor to use initiative and ingenuity whenever possible. It is this added initiative that makes the good soldier. It was just such individual ingenuity that enabled the British at Gallipoli to hold the Peninsula against an overwhelming Turkish force. One soldier was out in No Man's Land, watching for enemy snipers. In the darkness many of the wily enemy were able to slip by him. When a bullet splintered the illuminated dial of his wrist watch, he devised a scheme to trap them. On the bushes at the farther side of the path which the snipers had to use, he placed some of the fragments. Then, retiring to a distance, he trained his rifle on them and waited. As soon as they were obscured he knew that one of the enemy

Initiative and ingenuity

was passing, and pulled the trigger. Later he expanded this scheme by using sticks coated on one side with phosphorescent paint. In this way he was able to keep that section of the trench entirely free from snipers.

This was not the only case in which ingenuity helped. It also enabled the British to evacuate the Peninsula of Gallipoli with a loss of only two men killed and one wounded in their entire force. They got off in two hours without being suspected. It was not till the second day after that the Turks really found out. It took a great deal of cleverness to devise the scheme that would let the evacuation take place secretly, since the four miles from the trenches to the shore was over ground that afforded no cover. As soon as the troops knew they were to leave, they ripped up the sandbags and broke the glass in the periscopes, to make them useless to the enemy. If the Turks began to investigate

Initiative and ingenuity

while the British were between their trenches and the shore, it might mean annihilation. At first it was planned to leave a small party scattered through the trenches. They were to be sacrificed so that their comrades might escape.

But an Australian solved the problem. He attached the broken periscopes to the parapet. The Turks, looking over, would see these above the trench just as they would any ordinary day at the front. Then he took a number of rifles, lashed them at different points along the parapet, and put a cartridge in each. Each loaded rifle he cocked ready to fire. From the trigger he suspended a bully-beef tin weighted with sand almost heavy enough to pull the trigger. On the top of the rifle he placed another tin filled with water. From a small hole in the bottom of this the water dropped slowly, making the lower one heavy enough to press the trigger. By having

the tins of different weights, he arranged it so that the rifles did not all explode at once. Then the troops moved off silently, piled aboard the warships waiting for them in the bay, and steamed away. All that night the firing continued at intervals, and kept up all the next day. The Turks, taking their usual cautious survey, saw the periscopes above the parapets. Every little while a bullet sang over their trenches. To them it looked like what the official reports call "A quiet day on the Eastern front."

Initiative and ingenuity

CHAPTER III

MARKSMANSHIP

Learn your rifle thoroughly

At the front your best friend is your rifle. Therefore, treat it always as such. Some day it is going to be the only thing between you and death. When your rifle is issued to you, lose no time in examining it. Look at the back-sight leaf to see that the joint is firm and that the leaf is not bent. Move the slide back and forth a few times. Make certain that it moves smoothly and fits firmly on the leaf. Be sure that the "U" is not deformed. Look closely at the lines indicating the different ranges; see that they are clearly marked. Also look carefully at the fore-sight to make sure that it has not been bent or twisted. Rifle sights are very delicately adjusted, and are easily bent or dam-

aged. Always take special care to see that they are in perfect order. If your score ever suffers, have the sights inspected by the sergeant instructor of musketry.

Learn your rifle thoroughly

You will have issued to you, with your rifle, some flannel patches. These are cut to fit the bore and are used for cleaning it. Besides these, you will get some salsoda, some heavy grease called "cosmic," and some oil. As soon as your rifle is issued, take out the bolt and look up at the sun through the barrel. If the inside glints clear and bright, it is all right. If there are any signs of rust, go immediately to the rifle-cleaning rack. There you will find the barrack cleaning-rod. Soak some of the patches in a solution of salsoda in water. Then with the cleaning-rod push a piece of the wet flannel in the *breech end* of the bore. Run it back and forth several times, and when one patch is dirty, put in a new one. When you have done this with

Learn your rifle thoroughly

several, dry the bore out with dry patches. Then hold your rifle up against the light. This time look through it from the *muzzle end* for metal fouling: it looks like flakes or lumps the color of silver. Don't attempt to remove it, but take the rifle to the quartermaster sergeant. He will send it to the artificer to be cleaned. But if the bore is bright, dip a clean patch in the cosmic, and run it through until the bore is coated. When you are using your rifle for drill purposes, and not for shooting, always keep the bore covered with this coating of cosmic. Before putting your rifle away, wipe it off with the heavy oil, and oil the bolt very lightly with the other oil. Examine your rifle frequently to see if it needs cleaning. This is a very good habit, because on active service, to have a dirty rifle is a great crime. You should invariably clean it after you have fired it, and after it has been rained upon. Never let it

A dirty rifle is a crime

stay wet for any length of time. The longer the rust stays on, the harder it is to get off. When you get in the trenches, cut the toe off an old sock and put it over the bolt. This keeps it from getting filled with mud or sand. This simple trick will save you a great deal of cleaning.

A dirty rifle is a crime

Before loading your rifle, take particular pains to learn the correct loading positions, lying, standing, and kneeling. Don't think a lot of things the musketry instructor insists upon are unnecessary. The army authorities have been experimenting for years, and have decided that a number of well-defined motions and positions are the most effective.

Remember, the most important point is to *keep your eye on the mark.*

Keep your eye on the mark

The only time you should allow your eye to leave the mark is when you have to adjust your sights; then only for the shortest possible time. Even when you are taking the cart-

Keep your eye on the mark

ridges from your equipment, you will have to do it by feeling. This is hard at first, but very much worth learning. After a while you will become so expert that you will do it automatically. The reason for doing it is that at the front a man in uniform is a very indistinct mark. He merges easily into the landscape. And unless you keep your eye on him constantly, he gets away from you. The small fraction of a minute that you transfer your eye from your enemy to your ammunition pouch may be long enough for him to get to some concealment from which he may snipe you. It may seem silly at first, but it is not. The training you receive now you are to utilize in battle. Your foe is notable for his thoroughness. He is compelled to master every detail. He has learned from experience the value of concealing himself quickly. If you can keep your eye on him while you load your rifle, you give him no chance to get

away. After you have had a little duel with some sniper, you will begrudge every second you take to look at your sights. It is at such times you will be glad you learned the details of your training.

Keep your eye on the mark

Practice altering and fixing your sights. Experience in adjusting them is very valuable. Unless your range is right, you lose the effect of fire. If you practice enough, at moments of stress and danger you will adjust your sights without thinking about it. Unless your sights are right your bullets are useless, no matter how correctly you have aimed.

Practice with the sights

Correct aiming is one of the hardest things to learn. Next to keeping your eye on your mark, remember to adjust your rifle to your eye, not your eye to your rifle. This saves a great deal of unnecessary moving about, and is by far the quickest and most effective way.

Correct aiming

Therefore in aiming, when you have carried the rifle to your shoulder, place the butt

Correct aiming

close to your cheek. Keep your face back as far as possible from your trigger hand. The farther back your face is, the more clearly you will see the sights. Apart from the good effect this will have on your shooting, you will find it the most comfortable position. It eases the strain on your head and neck, and makes you feel the recoil very little.

In aiming, the back-sight must be kept upright. (This does not mean that the leaf must be raised.) Then close your left eye and align your sights *on the direct center of the lowest part of the mark.* The bull's-eye should appear as if balanced on the top of your sights. You need the low point of aim to get a clear view of the mark. This is especially true when you aim at a target which is hard to see, like a man in uniform. Also, an ordinary bull's-eye target on a range tips a little toward you. This necessitates aiming down to alter the elevation, because the upper part of the tar-

get is slightly nearer than the bottom part. At the front you must aim low, as the man you are aiming at is generally coming toward you. Consequently he is nearer you by the time you squeeze the trigger. *Correct aiming*

By aiming at the very bottom of your target, you save yourself from the mistake of the average recruit. He keeps his eye focused on the fore-sight. This allows it to obscure part of the target. You should keep your eye on your mark all the time, because if the eye is focused on the fore-sight it retains only a very blurred image of the object. You are likely to make this mistake because you will begin by aiming at a stationary target, with a black bull's-eye on a white ground, which is very easy to see. Therefore, with your target plainly in view, and sure not to move away, you concentrate on the adjustment of your fore-sight.

When you fire at the ordinary range target,

Correct aiming

this, of course, makes little difference, but later you will wish you had learned the correct way at first. At the front you will have to fire at natural features of the ground like the tops of ridges. Harder than that is firing at the parapet of a trench which the enemy has done his best to conceal. And most important of all, you will have to fire at troops in neutral-tinted uniforms against a dull background. Under the best of circumstances these are hard targets to locate, and a single soldier is still harder. One thing is certain: whether such troops are stationary or moving, if you wish to hit them you must focus on the target, not on the fore-sight. You must watch the target closely while you fire. That is why it is so important to have your sights carefully adjusted and your rifle accurately aimed.

The trigger squeeze

But no matter how carefully and accurately your sights are adjusted and your rifle

aimed, it is all labor wasted if your trigger-pressing is faulty. This disturbs your aim at the very moment of discharge. The chief thing to remember about pressing the trigger is to squeeze it so slowly and gradually that the report comes as a surprise to you. While you press the trigger, breathe easily and naturally. Deep breaths disturb your aim.

The trigger squeeze

Be most careful not to touch the trigger before the rifle is against your shoulder; and while you are firing, retain a firm grip with both hands. This makes the butt rest firmly in the hollow of your shoulder. Unless the butt is firm, *accurate shooting is impossible.*

At the front you will have to fire at single men or troops crossing in front of you. This is hard to do. First aim at the object, then following it sideways, carry your aim in advance of it until you fire. If a man walks across your front at any distance less than five hundred yards, aim about a foot in front

Shooting at moving objects

Shooting at moving objects

of him for each hundred yards. If he is doubling, aim about two feet in front. Your aim should be about three feet in front of a trotting horse, and if he is galloping, four feet in front for each hundred yards. It has been pretty well proved in this war that only an expert shot can hit a single man at much over three hundred yards. And so, to fire at anything less than a body of troops beyond close range is a waste of ammunition for the ordinary soldier. If you ever fire at a body of troops moving toward a flank, aim at the head of the column.

Experience in Europe has shown, however, that beyond six hundred yards individuals accomplish very little, even when they fire at a large body of troops. Whether due to excitement, fatigue, or other causes, inaccurate fire increases with distance. Beyond six hundred yards, officers with field-glasses determine the ranges and direct collective fire.

Then fire in volume is sufficient to make up for errors of individuals, and to obtain fire effect.

Shooting at moving objects

There will be times at the front when much will depend on your ability to shoot rapidly and continuously. When you are firing to repulse a surprise attack, there will not be time even to alter your sights. To take time to do it under such conditions would be futile, and lead to the loss of fire effect. Therefore you will have to aim up or down. There is no fixed rule for this; you can learn it by practice; but if you have to aim more than three feet higher or lower, it is far better to take the time to alter your sighting. Don't forget, too, that in firing from cover you must keep your eye on the enemy between shots, to avoid losing sight of him. Always get as near as you possibly can to the cover you are firing from. Don't fire over it, but try your best to fire round the side of it.

Shooting at moving objects

Remember, always, that in all these practices you are training for real war. When you fire in the open, keep this especially in mind.

CHAPTER IV

KEEPING FIT

A HEALTHY man is hard to kill. That is why it is so important for you to keep fit. "Keep your feet warm, your head cool, and your stomach light." This is the advice the old-fashioned doctors gave your grandfathers in the Civil War. In this war we have added a fourth: "Keep yourself clean." If you follow these rules you are bound to keep in good physical shape. In the daytime it is easy enough to keep cool. If the sun is very hot, put some wet leaves in your cap. If you can't get wet leaves, dampen your handkerchief instead. Keeping cool at night is a little harder matter, especially where a number of men sleep together. In barracks be sure that the room you sleep in gets lots of fresh air.

Keep fit

Keep fit

Unless you have a free current of air, you breathe the same air over and over. Keep all the windows wide open, so the air can circulate. The quicker you begin, the quicker you'll get used to it. It's better to put on a few extra clothes the first night or two than to wake up every morning with a dark-brown taste in your mouth. When you get into the trenches you will have to sleep in the open air. So don't be afraid of open windows. Nobody ever caught cold from sleeping outdoors. The men in the trenches never have colds.

Not much harm can come to you if you keep your body clean and your lungs filled with good fresh air. The physical instructors know this. That is why they give you gymnastic drills to make you sweat hard and breathe deeply. Besides this, these exercises are good for most of your muscles. But if you are wise, you will play games that use some

other muscles. Running is good exercise, because it makes the blood circulate through your leg muscles. Rowing is a great deal better. Swimming is the best of all; it uses all the muscles. In addition, it teaches deep breathing. Besides this, it has another advantage: you combine a bath with your exercise. Every time you exercise, be sure to take a bath afterward to wash off the sweat. Don't ever let it dry on if you can help it; it clogs your pores. Unless these pores are open, the waste matter can't get out. Instead, it stays in your system to poison it. Your sweat glands help you to get rid of the waste matter which your bowels and other excretory organs fail to carry off. These glands work hardest at night. That is why you should not sleep in the same clothes you wear in the daytime. It is a reason, too, for taking a bath as often as you can.

Keep fit

It is not much good to take a bath unless

Keep fit

you change your dirty clothes at the same time. Neither is it much good to change your dirty clothes unless you take a bath. But if you ever get a chance to do one and not the other, remember that half a loaf is better than no bread.

Keeping your body clean includes, of course, taking care of your hair. If you are sensible you will keep it fairly short, especially when you go into the trenches. Then you should have it clipped. You should be particular not to use any one else's comb or brush. If you ever borrow a razor, get it from some one whose skin is not pimply or sore. The Government issues a towel to you. You should keep this for your own use alone. Remember that among a large number of men some of them may have some kind of skin disease.

Do your own laundry work

About the camp you will find many agents for laundries, who pester you to give them

Do your own laundry work

your laundry work. But if you are wise you won't. It is much better to do it yourself, for two reasons: first, you will have to do it when you are on actual service; second, — and far more important, — these laundries will wash your clothes with the clothes of the other soldiers in camp. In that way you run a great rish of catching some skin disease, like itch or ringworm; or some body vermin from the other man's undershirt may take a standing jump to yours when the laundry makes it too hot for him. A good, healthy, well-nourished flea will jump eleven times his own length just for the fun of jumping. Science is not yet far enough advanced to estimate how far he can jump under the urging of boiling water.

You should be particularly careful to wash your own towel. In the laundry the discharge on the clothing of a person having syphilis may get on your towel and give you that

Do your own laundry work

disease. Don't let any one who has gonorrhea use your towel. You may get some of the discharge into the mucous membrane of your eye, nose, or mouth.

While we are on this subject of gonorrhea, remember that there is only one way to contract it, or what is generally known as "clap"; that is, by sexual intercourse with an infected woman. You can get a gonorrheal infection in the mucous membrane of your eye, nose, or mouth. But that is n't clap. No matter what stories you hear to the contrary, you cannot get clap from a strain caused by heavy lifting. That may be enough to bring on a return of it to a man who has not been wholly cured; but it cannot cause it. Neither can you get it from the seat of a water-closet. But you can get from the seat of a water-closet some very active and annoying vermin commonly known as "crabs." Therefore, when you sit on a water-

closet that is used by a great many men, it is a wise precaution to put a covering of paper on the seat, as a barrier to these unwelcome visitors. If you should be unfortunate enough to be nominated as their host, buy a very simple and cheap preparation called "Blue Ointment." Any druggist will sell it to you, and it is very helpful in speeding the parting guest.

Do your own laundry work

A good many people will tell you that syphilis can also be contracted from the seat of a water-closet. But syphilis is a blood disease, and you cannot catch it in this way, unless your skin is broken, or pimply, or cut. If you have a cut on your lip, you can get syphilis from using the same cup with a person who has it. Even in using his shaving-brush you are taking a big chance, since it will carry the germs to your face, and if you cut yourself, these germs will get into your blood.

Trench troubles

In the trenches your great trouble will be sand-lice and itch. There is nothing you can do to prevent these lice from coming. But you won't mind them so much if you sprinkle your underwear with plenty of insect powder. Itch is caused by a parasite, and is very painful. If you are unlucky enough to get it, go at once to the doctor or the Red Cross man and get a box of sulphur ointment. Keep rubbing it on until the itch stops.

Don't eat with dirty hands

Besides the germs you may get from some one else, it is easy to carry germs into your system by eating with dirty hands. Don't be foolish about this. It is a good deal easier to wash your hands before meals than it is to get over an attack of typhoid or dysentery.

Take care of the stomach

All the care you take in cleaning the outside of your body will do you no good if your stomach is not right. Your stomach is likely to suffer most while you are on the march. Don't smoke while you are marching. Smok-

ing will make your throat dry, and will cause you to feel very thirsty. Above all, don't chew tobacco. If you must chew, chew gum. Gum keeps you from being thirsty, and besides that, takes away your desire to smoke. When your body is overheated from marching, you will be tempted to drink more water than is good for you. Only one thing causes dysentery or enteric faster than drinking water when you are overheated. That one thing is fruit. So, no matter how uncomfortable you may feel, remember that it is not a circumstance to the way you would feel if you had enteric or dysentery.

Take care of the stomach

In the Gallipoli campaign the British army lost ninety thousand men through sickness. Half this loss could have been prevented if the men had been more careful about the kind of water they drank.

Drinking water

Before you start on a long march, fill your water-bottle. Drink as little of it as possible,

Drinking water

and be sure not to drink from any well or spring on the side of the road. Keep this in mind for two reasons. The first is, it is a good way to prepare yourself for life on the firing line. When you get to the trenches you will be given a canteen full, and that is all you will get until your next issue. In France water is very precious. The second reason is that, unless the water is pure, it is apt to make you sick. When you are overheated from marching, your body will not be able to fight the germs and throw off the sickness they cause. The purest kind of water is rain-water. But if you get rain-water, be sure that the vessel you get it in has been scalded. Melted snow-water is almost as good as rain-water, because snow freezes up in the pure air. Don't think, however, that you should eat snow when you are thirsty. This is very bad, and does a great deal more harm than good. The heat your body uses in melting

the snow causes more thirst than the water quenches. A lot of people have the idea that water is pure because it is spring water. But that is not true of every spring. In places where the soil is poor and thin, with a bedrock of granite, spring water is generally all right. In other places, where the soil is thick and rich and there is no hard rock, the water is apt to be bad. That is why it is so dangerous to drink water from any old place. In France almost all the wells have been poisoned by so many dead bodies lying around.

Drinking water

Bad water is not the only thing that will cause stomach trouble. Most of the stomach trouble in this country is caused by poor teeth. One of the best ways to keep your stomach in order is to care for your teeth. In this war, where the ration is largely hard biscuit, a lot depends on how good your teeth are. You should brush them every morning and night at the very least. If you are at all

Look out for your teeth

Look out for your teeth

particular, you will brush them oftener. To do this right takes from three to five minutes. Just rubbing the tooth-brush over the front of your teeth is not enough. The whole purpose of brushing them is to get rid of food deposits. Besides the teeth, you should brush the gums, the back of the tongue, and the whole inside of your mouth. This makes your gums firm and healthy, and improves the circulation of the blood. After you have brushed your teeth, rinse your mouth thoroughly with clean water. Sometimes the brushing does not dislodge all the food deposits. When this happens you should use either a quill toothpick or some dental floss. Keep your tooth-brush clean, and sterilize it frequently in very hot water. If constant cleaning does not help your teeth, you should see a dentist or the medical officer.

Your value as a solider is based largely on your ability to march. Your ability to march

depends almost altogether on the condition of your feet. Keep your feet perfectly clean. Wash them every day. Be sure that your toe-nails are clipped and clean. Don't let them grow into your toes, or don't let them get so long that they wear through your socks. The best socks to wear are woolen ones, not too thick. Be sure that they fit. Don't have them too tight, because this pulls the heel too far forward, and makes a wrinkle. If they are too large, there will be more wrinkles. On a march every wrinkle means a blister.

You can't march right unless your feet are right

The first thing you should do after you get in from a march is to look to your feet. See that any blisters that may have formed are attended to at once. Get one of the Red Cross men attached to your company to stick a needle through the blister to let the water out. After that, have it painted with iodine. Don't try to do it yourself, as an unsterilized needle may cause infection. It will

You can't march right unless your feet are right

save you a great deal of pain, and will keep your foot from being poisoned.

Don't let your feet trouble you long. If you have corns, you can be pretty sure that you wear the wrong kind of shoes. Show them to the medical officer and tell him how they affect your feet. He will fix you up. Under ordinary conditions, keep your feet warm and dry. If you get them wet, change your shoes and socks the first chance you get.

When you are in your quarters, do not spit on the floor. This is one way in which you can coöperate with the doctors and prevent the spread of disease.

Remember finally, that if you are in a little better condition than your enemy, you may last a few extra seconds in a bayonet fight. If he is in better condition than you, the words "killed in action" will come after your name. When a German bullet hits you is when your health will count.

CHAPTER V

A SUCCESSFUL SOLDIER — AS THE SERGEANT SEES HIM

A Frank Talk by Sergeant Lynch

When you receive orders to report to the training camp you enter upon a new life. Most likely you are not used to paying unquestioned obedience to a superior. Neither are you used to life in barracks with all kinds of men. During a long experience as an enlisted man in the American army I have had to face that sort of problem. Now, from the point of view of the man in the ranks, let me give you a few tips. They will make life easier for you at the start.

Your job as a soldier is to do what you are told. Even to the smallest detail you must learn everything that is taught you. You have never before had a job where learning

things right was of such importance. Some day your lack of knowledge may mean that you will be killed. Not only that, but through your ignorance your dearest friend, your "bunkie," may be killed. Your failure at a critical moment may even cause the death of many of your company. You must not forget that. All the things your officers or non-coms. tell you to do must be done, because some day you will be a better soldier in time of necessity.

Obedience

Even if at the time you receive orders they seem to you foolish, obey them. I have watched men working with me for a number of years. What I saw, and my own experience, have proved that the purpose of formations and orders we did not understand at first always became clear later.

Then the men who had taken pains to learn the early formations found the later ones

Obedience

easy. Those who had scoffed at first floundered along helplessly, grumbling because their squad advanced so slowly. As a matter of fact, it was held back solely through their stupidity or laziness.

Regarding N. C. O.'s

Try to get on with your superiors, especially with your non-coms. They will be appointed according to merit from men like yourself. Even if you do not think they are the best possible, remember that nobody is infallible. In the selection of officers and non-coms. the best men are not always chosen, nor is the poorest left behind. As a general rule, though, good men get promoted quickly. When you are given orders by some one placed over you, the best way is to obey cheerfully. Do it even if you think he should be taking orders from you. To use an Irishism: "If you find you cannot do it cheerfully, well, do it as cheerfully as you can."

Regarding N. C. O.'s

It goes without saying that it is necessary to have officers and non-coms. Knowing this, it is up to you and me to do the best we know how with respect to them. You may think that a certain man should not be a non-com. and placed over men. Perhaps you are right. But what of it? He is a non-com., and you would be as poor a soldier as he is a non-com. if you did not realize the conditions. Show your strength in contrast to his weakness.

You will find it hard, and in many instances galling, to knuckle under to certain types of men. Here is where you must use your head. If you come across such a man, that is your opportunity to show your will-power. Make up for his deficiencies.

The problem of getting along with men in camp is a real problem, and is worth a good deal of study.

Orders

When some superior gives you an order, keep in mind two things: first, it is absolutely necessary that orders be obeyed; second, some time it will be your turn to give orders. Therefore, remembering these two things, when you are given orders, execute them to the best of your ability. Obey promptly and cheerfully. Should you ever be given duty to do which you do not like, go ahead and perform it anyway. Even if you should not do it by rights, because it is not your time or turn, do it with a smile. If you cannot get redress then and there, you can later. Time will show that you will have the respect of those who some time before thought very little of you.

In the camp

In the case of the new national army, our camp is not a great number of tents, put up in straight lines, with company streets in between. It is low wooden buildings, laid out

In the camp

like a large town, with post-office, restaurants, telegraph offices, movie theaters, and other such public places as you would find in a small city. You will be assigned to one of those temporary barracks and given your government issue. This includes, besides clothing, a bed, blankets, sheets, pillow, and so forth. And from them begins your new life.

You must try to make this life as pleasant as you can, both for yourself and your comrades. These strangers of to-day will be the men to assist you in your great necessity of to-morrow. Be as good-natured and obliging to them as you would be to people in your own household. Take it then and there that this is your home now, and will be for some little time to come. So, for your own sake, make your new life as pleasant as possible. Be pleasant yourself, and it will be reflected upon you. Even if you know that some men

In the camp

are holding your squad back, and making things harder for you, don't harbor any ill-feeling toward them. Do your best to help them, and always be civil toward your comrades in the ranks. Never mind if you don't like some of them. You must realize that some day you will have to depend on them, and they will have to depend on you in an emergency. Unless you both feel kindly toward each other, there can be little hope for team work. We must have that in the new national army before we can lick the Germans.

Cleanliness

Personal cleanliness is the absolute necessity of soldier life. You must keep clean for the benefit and protection of those surrounding you. Therefore see to it that you shave regularly every day. With the kind of work you will be called upon to do, you should also bathe as often as possible. Keep

Cleanliness your shoes nicely polished and your clothes well brushed, so that you may always look neat. As far as your laundry work is concerned, there will be numbers of laundries to do it for you. But the real soldier does his own laundry. That is what you will have to do in France, and on transports, for that matter. Learn to do it yourself, because the day will come, especially at the front, when there will be no one to do it for you. Now is the time, and the national camp is the place to learn this very essential art.

Too much stress cannot be laid upon personal appearance. On that alone you are sometimes picked for a better position.

Equipment The care of your equipment is a very important matter. Certain rules are laid down by the authorities for the treatment of the different pieces of your outfit. Most important of all these articles is your rifle. Be sure

that you know how to clean and treat it. *Equipment*
Learn which oil to oil it with, and which to use in treating the wooden part. Your rifle is an all-important thing. Therefore pay particular attention while you are being instructed in its care and use.

When it comes to practice with your rifle, don't think that the muscle exercises the instructor gives you are silly. Although they may look simple and silly to you, they are very important; so important that they are constantly used by trained troops. These exercises have been adopted by the army after years of trial. They are found to develop certain muscles which help to keep the rifle steadier in your hands.

When you have been taught for some time, *Patience*
don't think that you know it all, and get careless. When you get careless comes the beginning of your end as far as further advance-

Patience

ment is concerned. When it comes to selections for some other branch of the service or some place you really want to go, you can't be recommended — all through your own fault. Don't get discouraged if promotion is slow at first. Your superiors keep a constant eye on you. No matter how poor or weak you are at anything, if you honestly try to do your best, you will be appreciated for it.

Marching

Marching will not be given the attention it used to get because there is not a great deal of it done on the western front. Still, it will be necessary for you to know how to look to yourself both on the march and when the march is ended. When your training is well advanced, a lot of your time will be taken up in route marching. The chief purpose of this will be to harden your muscles. It also accustoms you to move about freely with your full equipment. The British army found that

men who could walk thirty miles a day once a week were able to stand almost anything. You may not be called on to do that. But if you spend four days in the trenches and eight out, as the French and British do, you will have to do a lot of hiking with your full equipment. *Marching*

When you are on the road, be sure that your field service outfit fits properly. Do not be satisfied that as long as it is on your back it is good enough. Loosen or pull in the straps until you satisfy yourself or some critical eye that it is hanging properly. Get it evenly balanced on your shoulders, and do not have your belt too tight. On the march drink as little water as you can. The more you drink the more you want. If you have to drink, avoid getting water from any old place. Get it only from the water wagon supplied by the army. Also avoid eating fruit on the march.

Marching

These are a few very simple rules, but my experience has taught me the value of them. The few hints I have given you are meant to save you trouble. Had I known what I now tell you, I might have avoided a great deal of it. What I learned took a long time and was hard learning. Now I pass it along to you in the hope that it will make you a better man in the ranks, a pleasanter comrade to your "bunkies," and an easier man for me, as an instructor, to handle, and above all a good soldier of the United States of America.

CHAPTER VI

A TALK ON PERSONAL CONDUCT

Your conduct is a national affair

Out West they have a rule of conduct pretty suitable for a soldier: "So conduct yourself each day, that you can look every damn man in the eye and tell him to go to hell." Your conduct in civilian clothes is your private affair. As soon as you put on your uniform, you take on a new responsibility. Your conduct becomes a national affair. Abroad your conduct will be judged as the conduct of an average American. See that you make it such that the Nation will not be ashamed of it. Even before you leave here, you will find people willing to belittle the uniform and the men who wear it. The Socialists are openly working against the army. So are the pacifists. They will seize on anything

Your conduct is a national affair

you do to show how harmful the army is. Unfortunately the deeds of some men who wear the uniform give them only too good an opportunity. If you are a patriotic American, you will give them no chance to point scornfully at you. These people are traitors who have placed other flags before the one that protects them. You, as a soldier of the United States, should remember that you are the representative of a great country. The advice of Edward Everett Hale, in "A Man Without a Country," might have been written expressly for you: —

"And for your country, boy, and for that flag, never dream a dream but of serving her as she bids you, though the service carry you through a thousand hells. No matter what happens to you, no matter who flatters you or who abuses you, never look at another flag; never let a night pass but you pray God to bless that flag. Remember, boy, that behind

all these men you have to do with, behind officers, and Government, and people even, there is the Country Herself, your Country, and that you belong to Her, as you belong to your own mother. Stand by Her, boy, as you would stand by your mother, if those devils there had got hold of her to-day."

Your conduct is a national affair

Don't allow your patriotism to give you a swelled head. From the first day you are reviewed till you finally land in France, you will hear very little but praise. The newspapers will write glowing accounts of you. Every officer who makes a casual inspection will tell you how well trained you are. Every mayor and congressman and politician in the country will tell you that you are the best troops that ever landed in France. But take it all with a grain of salt. Perhaps you are, but keep it under your hat till you have proved it. Once the London papers called some colonials "The finest body of men that has

Don't get a swelled head

Don't get a swelled head

landed in England since William the Conqueror." Some of them lost their heads and believed it. They believed it so firmly that they gave up obeying orders. Finally, they were disbanded and distributed among other regiments. In the new regiments they told the other men about it, and received such a walloping that they never got over it. This is what will happen to you unless you use a little horse sense.

Over in France, the people are prepared to welcome you with open arms. Already they have thronged the streets to yell enthusiastic welcome to Pershing's regulars. Never was the feeling so cordial between France and America. Just when the struggle seemed most hopeless, the United States entered the war. General Pershing went to France with his thousands of young Americans who told of a million to come. Don't let the welcome you get in France turn your head. Remember

that you are not the only one who has come from overseas.

Don't get a swelled head

The colonials in France are looking forward to your coming. You are young like themselves. You talk the same language and think the same thoughts. If they find you decent, they will give you the time of your life. They need your help, and are willing to help you. So it is up to you to begin right and keep it up.

There are others fighting besides you — and they've already made good

These colonials have been fighting for three years. Until you have proved yourselves in action, they won't like any insinuation that YOU are going to win the war. The Canadians who retook their own guns at Ypres, and the men who took Vimy Ridge, have their own ideas as to who are the best soldiers. The Australians and New Zealanders who charged the Turks at Anzac, with no cartridges in their magazines, won't believe you are their superiors. The five hundred

There are others fighting besides you — and they've already made good

Newfoundlanders who killed fifteen hundred Germans in an afternoon with the bayonet will have something to say about it, too. If you had been over there for three years and had done a lot of hard fighting, how would you like to have some one who had never been under fire say to you, "WE are going to win this war." So wait until you have done something before you begin to crow. Then you won't want to.

In addition to the temptation to get a swelled head, when you get to France you will be up against two more temptations: wine, and women.

Cut out the "booze"

Leaving out the moral side altogether, "booze"and women are poor business. The Allies have found that you can't win a war when you are drunk. The Russians have cut out vodka entirely. In France and England they hated to give up their booze. But now they are passing drastic laws to limit the sale

of it. Right here in America a man in uniform cannot get a drink. *Cut out the "booze"*

In the first part of the war the British colonials did n't care how drunk a man got if he turned up all right on parade. That was in the days when a witness at a court-martial testified that a man was not drunk as long as he could move his right foot. Later the colonials found that the habitual drunkards could stand exposure the least of all their men. Also their wounds took a good deal longer to heal. If your blood is full of alcohol, you can't survive a dangerous wound.

Even now, the Allied armies supply a certain amount of alcohol to the men in the trenches. The French and Italians issue wine with meals, and the British issue a small ration of rum twice a week. But don't forget, in thinking about this, that the ration is *small.* It has never been forced on any soldier. No teetotaler has to take it. Lots of men in the

Cut out the "booze"

trenches have never touched it. Those who have taken it have found it helpful, especially when they were wet or chilled. Don't argue from this, however, that because a little of it is good for you, a lot is better. That is like saying that because a little salt is good on oatmeal, a great deal of salt would be much better. The British army issues a "tot" of rum to its soldiers just before a charge. One American writer unjustly said that this was given them to "get their courage up," and used that as an argument against war. As a matter of fact, it was given them in their canteens to carry with them when they charged. They were to use it as a stimulant if they were unlucky enough to be wounded. But after a man had been in two or three charges, and had seen a number of men killed almost before they left their own trenches, he made sure of his rum as soon as he was given it.

Cut out the "booze"

The doctor of the First Newfoundland Regiment summed up the situation pretty well. He said: "After you have been marching for several hours and are hot, and dusty, and thirsty, there is nothing so good for you as a little alcohol [loud cheers from the booze-artists], but only a little, and that little you should use on your feet."

The kind of woman to avoid

Now comes the second problem — women. As far as you are concerned there are three kinds of women — good, bad, and foolish. Naturally, if you are a decent man you will seek the good woman. With her, of course, you will have to be decent, or she will drop you. In her company you are safe, and lucky. In France you probably won't have the same chance to meet nice girls that you have at home. Remember that with the bad woman you are playing with fire. Only one thing happens to those who play with fire. Sooner or later they get burned.

The kind of woman to avoid

And while you are being laundered in hospital your pay will be stopped. Worse than this, your conduct sheet will carry a record of your disease. When you are in hospital, you will be put in a ward full of venereal cases, and you will be allowed no visitors. When visiting day comes, you will have to watch the visitors to the other wards avoid yours. If you go out in the corridor, they will shun you, because you will have to wear a shirt with a great "V" reaching from shoulder to waist, that marks you as a venereal patient. You will have to spend from six to eight long, lonesome weeks in the company of the riff-raff and scum of your own and other regiments, and forever after you will be branded by your fellows.

CHAPTER VII

TIPS FROM THE TRENCHES

What the men at the front have found

An American who has returned from Europe reports that nearly fifty thousand Americans are fighting with the British and French. The men at the front have discovered two things. They have found just how valuable their training has been, and they have learned how their training compares with that of the Germans. They have found that the broad principles are sound. A few men who were only a short time at the front had to use very little of what they learned in training. All they did was to form in a single line and march into the trenches. They thought that this was all that was needed. But those who have been there any length of time feel differently. Sometimes, when

What the men at the front have found

artillery fire caught them on a narrow road in close formations, they congratulated themselves on having learned to extend quickly. When they went over the parapet in a bayonet charge, they were glad that they had mastered the signals. They were glad, too, that they had learned how to keep their proper intervals in open order. They found then that the bayonet drill they had learned was not foolish. And above all, they were glad, day and night, that they had learned to care for their rifles and to shoot.

All Americans back from the front have been strong for paying strict attention to the details of training. From their observation of the Germans' tactics they have found that the Allies' system is, in two respects, away ahead of that of the Germans. They beat the Germans in the air, and in shooting with the rifle. As soon as the enemy start to move and are driven from their trenches, all the

training the American soldier receives will be needed. Then he can use what he has learned about rear-guard and advance-guard work. Every night, in "No Man's Land" between the trenches, a line of outposts extends from the Swiss border to the North Sea. But whether the Germans are in trenches or on the run, the American will find the most useful part of his training is marksmanship.

What the men at the front have found

The Germans don't teach their men to fire at distances beyond four hundred yards. They consider it a waste of ammunition. They start an infantry attack with the idea of getting within that distance of an enemy trench before opening fire. Therefore the soldiers don't practice judging distances. This is done only by officers. The Germans pay no attention to the indication of targets, or to fire direction or control generally, as the British do. They deem it a waste of ammunition to concentrate the fire of a platoon

The German idea of rifle fire

The German idea of rifle fire

or company on one spot at a thousand yards. The Allies do this constantly and get splendid results. Rifle-training in the German army is limited to independent firing by battalions on large areas of ground. When the Germans attack, they fire from the hip, without aiming at any particular object.

Some of them were taught rapid firing, and averaged eight or nine rounds a minute. But against the British this was pretty poor. In the British army, before a man is allowed to go to the front he has to fire fifteen well-aimed shots a minute. Compared with this the shooting of even the best German marksman is lamentable. The German rifle is not as good as the short Lee-Enfield of the British. The straight bolt takes longer to work than the British bolt, and their clip of cartridges is harder to get in than the British.

The greatest surprise the Germans received in the war was the splendid shooting of the

British. The diagram on page 91 gives a rough idea of the formations used by the Germans in an infantry attack. The Germans always used these close formations. Their first line is "cannon-fodder." They look upon it as cover for the second and third lines. They are prepared to sacrifice the entire front line in order to let the second and third lines get close to the enemy. Both ranks of each line are close together. They go ahead until their third line is stopped, and then dig in and open fire with their machine-guns. For this purpose the third line carries picks and shovels.

The German infantry attack formations

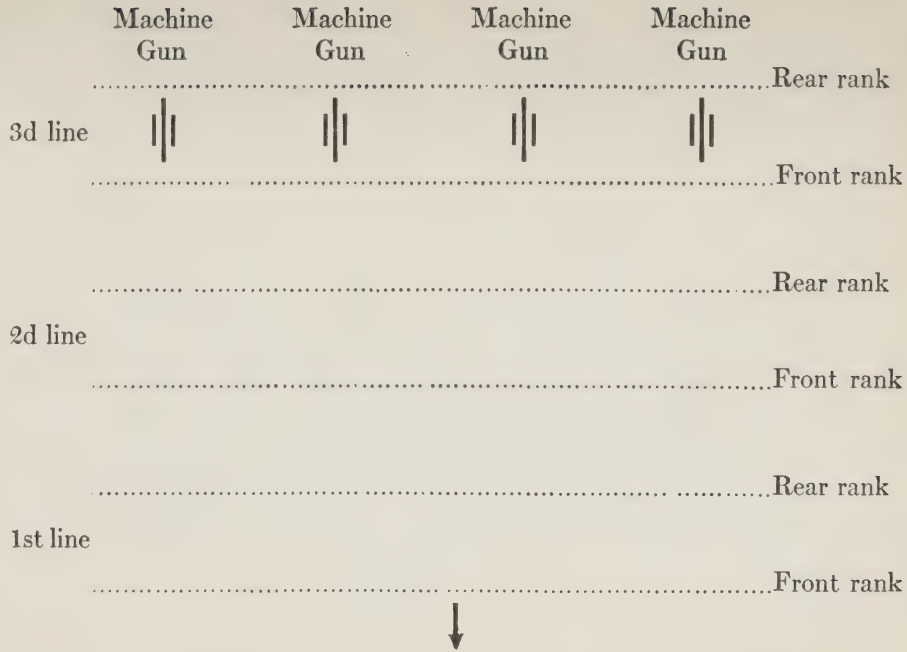
They counted on being able to rush the British troops by weight of numbers, but against the rapid and accurate firing of the British they did n't have a chance. They reckoned on their third line with its machine-guns being able to get within four hundred yards of the enemy, but on open ground

The German infantry attack formations

they were never able to do this. Their first lines were always down too soon — sometimes at eight hundred or a thousand yards. Again, on the Aisne their machine-guns in the third line came under concentrated fire of British infantry at a thousand yards, and although they suffered heavily, they could not reply, because the British were too well hidden. Owing to the tremendous effect of the concentrated British fire, the Germans' plan of attack has failed repeatedly. Every time they attacked they lost heavily.

The Germans thought nothing could be as good as their machine-guns. They neglected rifle shooting almost entirely, to perfect their machine-gun batteries. As a matter of fact, machine-guns are practically useless beyond four hundred yards. Against well-aimed concentrated rifle fire, they can never get so near as that. Therefore, *learn to shoot.*

In the winter the Germans usually attack


Machine Gun
Machine Gun
Machine Gun
Machine Gun
Rear rank
3d line
Front rank
Rear rank
2d line
Front rank
Rear rank
1st line
Front rank

German plan of attack

about three in the afternoon, or at dusk, and then entrench during the night within two hundred yards of our lines. They also take advantage of fog in the early morning. That is why the Allied armies always stand to arms at dawn and at dusk. Because of this watchfulness the Germans have found it slow work. Their rifle shooting is so poor that they haven't a chance against the Allies. Their fire effect comes chiefly from machine-guns and artillery.

Night attacks

German night attacks are made without scouts or advance parties, and the advance is made with great rapidity. These advances were seldom successful. The Allied troops were so well trained in rapid firing that they could open a well-aimed burst of fire at a second's notice. So long as this can be done, there is little chance of a trench being rushed.

In an attack, spread out

When you attack, don't be afraid to spread out. Loose, elastic formations are the best, with men at eight to ten paces' interval. If you have charge of a squad in an attack, remember that cover from view is more important than field of fire. It is better to have a field of fire of one hundred yards and be invisible, than to have one of six hundred yards and be an easy target for artillery.

Keep your rifle in good order

On active service take great pains to see that your rifle is always in working order. Make sure that the chamber is scrupulously clean. If it is dirty it is hard to get cartridges out. Dirt in the chamber makes them stick. Cartridges sometimes rust in their clips, so you should move them about once a week. Don't keep your magazine full all the time. If you do the spring will weaken. Test the bolt and magazine every day.

In the trenches rifles have become unser-

Keep your rifle in good order

viceable from mud. It gets in the lock when the rifle is rested on the wet parapet or dropped on wet ground. To avoid this, cover the bolt with a cloth wrapper or an old sock. Also place some canvas against the parapet. When you use the rifle pull the protecting material back.

Never put ammunition on the ground. Have a little box or tin to keep it in. It is a good plan to rub the ammunition with an oily rag.

Work in the trenches

Two on and four off is the rule in France. You get twice as much rest as you get work. If you go into the trenches four days, you get eight in dugouts. In the trenches, beginning about an hour before daylight, you "Stand to Arms." At daylight day duties commence. From then on you watch through a periscope for two hours and rest for four. Then you go on sentry duty for another two

hours, and so on all through the day and night. Get all the sleep you can in the daytime. Sleep your full four hours. In the nighttime the four-hour periods are spent in doing fatigues. You will have to go back for ammunition and for supplies. You may also have to carry wounded back behind the lines. There is a lot of digging to do, too. In the daytime you will be able to sleep because hardly any fatigue work is done. Moving about in the daytime is dangerous, because the enemy's artillery is so busy. When you are digging, be sure to build some kind of head cover, if you can do it without making the trench too conspicuous.

Work in the trenches

In building a shelter, however, don't let your desire for safety choke your initiative. Your object is to drive the enemy back. You can't do that by staying safe in a trench. The true test of your training comes when you engage the enemy with the bayonet. On

Work in the trenches

the following pages is a list of sixteen things to remember which will help you to prove yourself then.

But added to what you learn from text-books and instructors will be your natural American resourcefulness. To spur you on always you will have the knowledge that behind you stands the whole American Nation, thinking, planning, inventing, and working to help you win. The thoughts of a whole people will be with you; proud of your prowess, pitying your sufferings, jubilant at your victories, and above all grateful to you for the sacrifices you are making in their behalf.

THINGS TO REMEMBER
NOT TO FORGET

(1) REMEMBER: Read the daily orders as soon as they are posted.

(2) REMEMBER: Learn signaling; it will save you a lot of walking.

(3) REMEMBER: What you add to your equipment you add to the weight of your pack.

(4) REMEMBER: Your dearest friend is your rifle.

(5) REMEMBER: When you shoot, keep your eye on the mark.

(6) REMEMBER: Don't drink on the march.

Don't smoke on the march. It makes you feel thirsty.

(7) REMEMBER: After the march look to your feet.

(8) REMEMBER: Most stomach trouble is caused by poor teeth.

(9) REMEMBER: Don't fool about the pass word. A sentry will shoot first and investigate afterward.

(10) REMEMBER: Always keep your gas-mask handy. Don't use it for a fly-protector. It's better to have flies on your face than on your corpse.

(11) REMEMBER: The more booze your system contains, the less chance you have to recover from your wounds.

(12) REMEMBER: Bathe often. If you're clean when you're hit, your wound will not be septic.

(13) REMEMBER: Don't ever fire from a support trench. You may hit your own firing line.

(14) REMEMBER: Rely on your bayonet. The Huns hate cold steel.

(15) REMEMBER: Orders MUST be obeyed; so do it cheerfully.

(16) REMEMBER: Be patient; Rome was not built in a day.

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